

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/602,991

Examiner

Pho M. Luu

Applicant(s)

EGGLESTON ET AL.

Art Unit

2824

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to response to election filed 11/2/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-21,30-36,51-62,83-91 and 99.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 27 October 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).


\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>10/27/2003</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material                                 | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|  | 9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Search History</u> .                   |

  
RICHARD ELMS  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Reply to Election/Restrictions***

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I, Claims 1-21, 30-36, 51-62, 83-91 and 99 filed 2 November 2004 is acknowledged. The changes and remarks disclosed therein were considered.
2. Claims 22-29, 37-50, 63-82 and 92-98 have been canceled.
3. Claims 1-21, 30-36, 51-62, 83-91 and 99 are pending in the application.

### ***Priority***

4. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

5. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Form PTO-1449, filed 27 October 2003. The information disclosed therein was considered.

### ***Allowance***

6. Claims 1-21, 30-36, 51-62, 83-91 and 99 are allowance.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

There is no teaching or suggestion in the prior art to: "a control circuit adapted to control data accesses to the sectors of the erase block pair of a selected super block

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such that user data access and overhead data accesses are directed to differing erase blocks of the supper block” as claimed in the independent claims 1 and independent claim 30; or

“a nonvolatile memory device is adapted to execute a data access such that a surer data area of a selected first sector of a first erase block of a supper block pair also accesses an overhead data area of an associated first sector of a second erase block of the erase block pair of the supper block” as claimed in the independent claim 16; or

“accessing an overhead data area of a sector of an associated erase block of the plurality of erase blocks” as claimed in the independent claim 51 and independent claim 58; or

“an address control circuit is adapted to load data access request containing a data address from the host interface and address sequentially addressed flash memory physical sector of a selected supper-block as data is accessed by a host where the supper block contains a first and second erase blocks” as claimed in the independent claim 83; or

“a control circuit adapted to control data accesses to the physical sector of the erase block pair of a selected supper block where the plurality of physical sector of each erase block in the supper block are sequentially address with one erase block holding even addressed and other holding odd addressed physical sector” as claimed in the independent claim 99.

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Lakhani et al. (US. 2004/0015674) disclosed flash memory including erased memory that is the errors or faults commonly will appear in erase block.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Pho M. Luu whose telephone number is 571.272.1876. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00AM – 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, Richard Elms, can be reached on 571.272.1869. The official fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703.872.9306 for all official communications.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

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Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see

<http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PML

30 January 2004